

# Parole and Probation

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## Mission

To provide supervision of offenders placed on parole and probation in a manner that allows for the protection of the public and the successful reintegration of the offender into society.

## Summary of Activities

The **Department of Correction Parole Services** includes parole officers, central office and district supervisors, substance abuse counselors, and administrative support staff. A total of 128 employees are presently working in Parole Services. Currently approximately 7,000 adult and juvenile offenders are under parole supervision.

Parole Services continues to dedicate considerable resources towards reducing substance abuse among paroled offenders. During calendar year 2002, 11,000 drug tests were administered by district staff. Positive drug tests in Parole have been on a consistent decline since 1997. In 2002 random positive drug tests were reduced by 10%, baseline positives were reduced by 7%, and for cause tests were reduced by 17% as compared to 1997.

In addition to drug testing, Parole Services also manages treatment alternatives for offenders who abuse substances. During 2002, 454 paroled offenders were referred to the Zero Tolerance Program, which includes such components as residential, electronic monitoring, day reporting, and a variety of outpatient treatment resources. Approximately 42% of the parolees referred successfully completed the program requirements. Had these alternatives not been available, it is likely most of them would have been returned to DOC confinement for violating the conditions of parole or committing new offenses.

The DOC has implemented the Sex Offender Management and Monitoring (SOMM) Program, to identify offenders in need of enhanced supervision and mandatory sex offender treatment. At the present time, 495 sex offenders are being supervised under the SOMM program. In addition to more intensive supervision, sex offenders are subject to additional parole conditions which targets behavior likely to raise the risk of an offender committing a new offense. This includes requirements to attend community based sex offender treatment programs and monitoring of behavior with the use of polygraph testing. . These tests are critical in measuring offender compliance with the stipulations of parole supervision. Since the beginning of the SOMM program, 884 polygraph examinations have taken place. Currently, 434 offenders are required to attend community based sex offender treatment programs.

Parole Services has also begun using community based Technical Rule Violation (TRV) Centers as an alternative to returning technical violators to DOC facilities. Like many states, the increase in technical parole violators has placed considerable pressure on the departments' available offender housing. Using TRV programs as an alternative has the benefit of keeping the offender out of the Department, but also can provide community based treatment alternatives designed to target the offenders' behavior.

Probation is a proven cost-saving measure to the State since it reduces the incarceration rate. There are currently 1,259 probation officers in the State. The **Indiana Judicial Center** assists the local courts in developing and improving probation services. It conducts testing and certification of probation officers, and sets statewide standards for the operation of probation services. The Center conducts education and training programs for probation officers, and administers the interstate compact regarding the transfer of probationers in and out of Indiana.

## External Factors

Indiana's parole system is challenged by the continued increase in the number of offenders on parole. During the past five years, the number of paroled adult offenders has increased significantly, with little adjustment in the number of field employees. The average caseload for parole officers has increased to ninety offenders. The DOC and public overall have stressed offender accountability as a means of enhancing public safety. Duties such as drug testing, use of electronic monitoring, and closer supervision of sex offenders have all become significant factors in a parole agent's workday.

Indiana Parolees	
Men	5,431
Women	559
Boys	875
Girls	233

## Evaluation and Accomplishments

Despite large caseloads, the DOC has been able to enhance the level of supervision required of offenders and develop measures to implement appropriate sanctions when violations occur. Increased emphasis on drug testing and intervention continue to reflect a reduction in positive drug tests by paroled offenders.

The SOMM program has grown significantly, through increased service providers and improved supervision strategies during the past several years. The program will continue to be refined as the Department gains experience in supervising this high-risk population.

During the past two years, the Department has implemented Parole Caseload Management (PCM) as an automated system for tracking offenders on parole and monitoring parole agents' casework. This system is ready for the next step in implementation which will include tracking of parole violator reports in order to ensure that policies and standards concerning parole revocation are met.

During the last biennium, the Judicial Center provided probation officers with 30 days of instruction; total attendance was 3,051. The Center facilitated the transfer of 3,798 probationers out of state and 2,657 probationers into the state, and also processed 20,875 written inquiries, replies, and reports concerning active interstate probation compact cases. 265 runaways were also processed. The Center administered the probation officers' certification examination to 375 applicants.

In July of 2003, Indiana became the 43<sup>rd</sup> state to join the new Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision, which permits adult probationers to move from one state to another under supervision. A new state council for interstate adult offender supervision has been created, which will be chaired by the executive director of the Judicial Center and staffed by the Center, as well.

## Plans for the Biennium

Several projects during the next two years will be initiated in order to better manage offender population as well as implementing practices consistent with the "What Works" strategy promoted by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC). This includes developing the Transition from Prison to Communities Initiative (TPCI) through a recently awarded technical assistance grant by NIC. This will allow the department to implement the TPCI model recognized as an effective means to assist offender transition from prison, and also benefit public safety overall. The Department will develop a comprehensive case management system that will be used during all phases of incarceration from intake through release, transition and discharge. The Department will also continuing to pursue opportunities for collaboration with Community Corrections, county probation and other correctional agencies throughout the state.

